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Message Text

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44
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 PC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 EUR-25 NIC-01

CU-04 OMB-01 RSR-01 /156 W
---------- 109556
R 152215 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1794
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 2799

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PCOV, NU
SUBJECT: WEEKLY POLITICAL SUMMARY JUNE 9-15, 1973

REF: MANAGUA 276 2

1. LABOR PROBLEMS REAPPEAR IN CONSTRUCTION:

A. CONSTRUCTION WORKERS STRUCK ON JUNE 13
DEMANDING HIGHER WAGES. TO DATE THE STRIKE HAS BEEN
LOCALIZED AT SOME SITES OF AISA, CONTECSA AND
RAMCO, SOME OF NICARAGUA' S LARGEST CONSTRUCTION
COMPANIES. THE WORK STOPPAGE IS BEING DIRECTED BY
THE COMMUNIST CONTRLLED SCAAS CONSTRUCTION WORKERS UNION.

B. THE WAGE DEMANDS OF THE WORKERS HAVE YET TO BE
SPELLED OUT. RATHER VAGUE NEWSPAPER REPORTS SPEAK
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OF A 100 PERCENT INCREASE IN WAGES. A SOVIPE(ANOTHER LARGE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY) ENGINEER RECENTLY TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT SCAAS REPRESENTATIVES HAD VISITED SITES HE SUPERVISES AND TOLD HIM THAT THEY INTENDED TO DEMAND A 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE BASIC WAGE. THE AISA STRIKE ALSO APPEARS TO INVOLVE NON- WAGE COMPLAINTS REGARDING WORKING CONDITIONS.

COMMENT: A DEMAND FOR HIGHER WAGES WAS CLEARLY IN THE OFFING AT THE END OF THE SIXTY HOUR WEEK CONSTRUCTION WORKERS STRIKE (MANAGUA A-24). THE CURRENT WORK STOPPAGE HAS COME SOONER THAN THE INDUSTRY EXPECTED AND MAY BE DESIGNED TO KICK OFF SERIOUS BARGAINING ON THE WAGE ISSUE RATHER THAN AS THE PRELUDE TO ANOTHER INDUSTRY WIDE WORK STOPPAGE ONLY FIVE WEEKS AFTER THE SETTLEMENT OF THE EARLIER STRIKE. THE ACTING LABOR MINISTER BEGAN MEETING ON JUNE 15 WITH INDUSTRY AND SCAAS REPRESENTATIVES. END COMMENT.

2. SHORTS:

A. SOMOZA DEPARTED FOR THE UNITED STATES ON SUNDAY, JUNE 10 TO ATTEND HIS ELDEST SON' S GRADUATION CEREMONIES AT HARVARD AND TO CONDUCT SOME PERSONAL BUSINESS (MANAGUA 2673). COMMENT. THE GENERAL' S FIRST POST- EARTHQUAKE ABSENCE FROM NICARAGUA HAS CAUSED LITTLE COMMENT FROM EITHER SOMOZISTAS OR THE OPPOSITION REFLECTING THE STRENGTH OF HIS POSITION. SOMOZA' S OWN CONFIDENCE IS UNDERLINED BY THE FACT THAT IN A BREAK WITH TRADITION THE NATIONAL GUARD IS NOT ON A SPECIAL ALERT STATUS DURING THE GENERAL' S ABSENCE... END COMMENT.

B. PUBLIC SCHOOLS REOPENED IN MANAGUA ON MONDAY, JUNE 11, WITH FIRST DAY ATTENDANCE OUTSTRIPPING REGISTRATION. PARENTS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS SEEM PLEASED WITH THE SOMETIMES ONLY PARTIALLY FINISHED TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS WHICH THEY REPORT TO BE FAR SUPERIOR TO THE RECONDITIONED HOUSES WHICH FREQUENTLY SERVED AS PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRIOR TO THE EARTHQUAKE. PROBLEMS OF WATER AND SANITARY FACILITIES REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL

SERIOUS IN SOME OF THE POORER OUTLYING NEIGHBORHOODS.

C. URIEL MENDIETA, FISCAL OF THE AGUERO CONSERVATIVES (PCN- A), BECAME A PAGUAGISTA ON AGUERO' S BIRTHDAY. SOURCES IN THE PAGUAGA CONSERVATIVE CAMP (PCN- P) REPORT THAT MENDIETA WILL BE REWARDED WITH A SEAT ON THE SUPREME COURT. COMMENT. AGUERO' S SUPPORT

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CONTINUES TO ERODE AS OPPORTUNISTS ABANDON WHAT
THEY JUDGE TO BE A SINKING SHIP. END COMMENT.

D. THE NEW CONSTITUTION HAS REAPPEARED AS A TOPIC
OF SPECULATION FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE.
IT REPORTEDLY WILL BE READY FOR FINAL PASSAGE BY THE
END OF 1 973. COMMENT: FEW EXPECT OTHER THAN TECHNICAL
CHANGES FROM THE OLD DOCUMENT. END COMMENT.

E. THE ARCHBISHOP CRITICIZED THE GON FAMILY PLANNING
CAMPAIGN SAYING THAT FUNDAMENTAL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC,
AND POLITICAL CHANGES ARE WHAT IS CALLED FOR WHILE
REMINDING THE FAITHFUL OF THE PAPAL ENCYCLICAL
" ON HUMAN LIFE".

F. TULIO SOLORZANO SANTOS, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE
(INCEI) WAS REPLACED BY LIC. RODOLFO BOJORGE, MANAGER
OF THE CENTRAL BANK WHO WILL BE SUCCEEDED IN HIS BANK
JOB BY CARLOS MUNIZ, CURRENT DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC
STUDIES FOR THE CENTRAL BANK. SOLORZANO ATTRIBUTED
HIS DOWNFALL TO POLITICAL JEALOUSY AND THE CONTROVERSY
SURROUNDING THE PRE - EARTHQUAKE LOW QUALITY CORN
DELIVERED BY DREYFUS AND COMPANY (MANAGUA 2915 DATED
12/1/72). EMBASSY OFFICIERS HAVE A HIGH OPINION
OF MUNIZ AND ARE PLEASED BY HIS PROMOTION.
SHELTON

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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To: ARA
GUATEMALA
SAN JOSE
SAN SALVADOR
SECSTATE WASHDC
TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO

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